

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended to further define the subject matter recited therein. The amendments to claims 1 and 2 are supported at least by paragraph [0035] of the original specification. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

**I. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4, 7, 8 and 10 contain allowable subject matter.

**II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,011,392 ("Rudolph"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 recite, among other features, an underlayer coating forming composition comprising a crosslinking compound, an organic solvent and a dextrin ester compound, wherein the crosslinking compound has two or more crosslink-forming substituents selected from the group consisting of an isocyanate group, an epoxy group, a hydroxymethylamino group and an alkoxymethylamino group. For the reasons discussed below, Rudolph does not describe at least the above feature of claims 1 and 2 and would not have rendered claims 1 and 2 obvious.

The underlayer coating composition recited in claim 1 contains a dextrin ester produced by the esterification of dextrin in a specific ratio, which is effective for (1) preventing intermixing with a photolayer when the photolayer is applied onto the underlayer and (2) showing an increased dry etching rate that allows for a more accurate transfer of the photoresist pattern to the substrate. See Tables 1-2 and paragraphs [0034], [0072] and [0078] of the original specification.

Rudolph describes a mixed starch ester composition that may be combined with a crosslinking agent, a phenol and a solvent. See Office Action, page 2, line 19 to page 3, line 3 (citing Rudolph, col. 1, lines 4-18, col. 20, lines 54-59 and col. 22, lines 56-65). However, Rudolph merely describes the introduction of a carboxyl group (via acylation) into the starch polymer to be used a crosslinking site. See Rudolph col. 10, lines 30-40. Rudolph also describes that the crosslinking agent may be a melamine crosslinking agent. See Rudolph, col. 22, lines 32-35. However, Rudolph does not describe a crosslinking compound having two or more crosslink-forming substituents selected from the group consisting of an isocyanate group, an epoxy group, a hydroxymethylamino group and an alkoxymethylamino group, as recited in claims 1 and 2.

Because Rudolph does not describe an underlayer coating composition comprised of the specific crosslinking compounds recited in claims 1 and 2, Rudolph would not have provided one of ordinary skill in the art with any reason or rationale to have derived the underlayer coating formed by the underlayer coating composition recited in claims 1 and 2.

Claims 3, 5, 6 and 9 depend from claim 1. For at least the reasons discussed above and the additional features recited therein, Rudolph would not have rendered obvious claims 3, 5, 6 and 9.

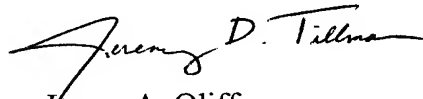
Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

### **III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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